

## ABSTRACT

Promoter activities were examined by comparing combinations of promoters and enhancers derived from various genes. A hybrid promoter comprising a combination of a CMV enhancer and a mammalian  $\beta$ -actin promoter, or the post-transcriptional regulatory region of the genomic sequence Woodchuck Hepatitis Virus (WPRE) and a mammalian  $\beta$ -actin promoter was found to be stronger than existing promoters. Furthermore, the activities of the  $\beta$ -actin promoters could be enhanced by coexpressing the oncogene product Ras, which is a transactivator.